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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
ACDA-12 IO-14 TRSE-00 /103 W
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R 241337Z JUL 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7331
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS USBERLIN 1742

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, WB, PINR
SUBJECT: BERLIN SEW ELECTS HORST SCHMITT NEW CHAIRMAN

REF: USBERLIN 1182

SUMMARY: AT AN EXTRAORDINARY PARTY CONVENTION HELD ON JULY 18, SEW PARTY DELEGATES ELECTED A NEW CHAIRMAN, HORST SCHMITT, AND TWO DEPUTY CHAIRMEN, INGE KOPP AND DIETMAR AHRENS. THE DELEGATES RECONFIRMED THE PARTY GOALS ESTABLISHED AT THE 5TH SEW PARTY CONVENTION. END SUMMARY.

1. WEST BERLIN'S GDR-LINE SOCIAL UNITY PARTY (SEW) MET IN A CLOSED EXTRAORDINARY SESSION JULY 18 TO ELECT A SUCCESSOR TO FORMER CHAIRMAN GERHARD DANIELUS WHO DIED MAY 18 (REFTEL). AS EXPECTED, 53-YEAR OLD FORMER DEPUTY CHAIRMAN HORST SCHMITT WAS UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED NEW PARTY CHAIRMAN. NEW FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IS INGE KOPP (47) AND DIETMAR AHRENS (48) WAS ELECTED
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SECOND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN.

2. THE WEST BERLIN SEW PARTY ORGAN DIE WAHRHEIT AND EAST BERLIN'S OFFICIAL SED ORGAN, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, GAVE EXTENSIVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SEW CONVENTION AND ALSO FEATURED SCHMITT'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH AND THE SEW'S GOALS WHICH WERE REAFFIRMED BY THE

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PARTY DELEGATES. OTHER WEST BERLIN PAPERS GAVE THE
EVENT NO MORE THAN A BRIEF NOTICE.

3. SCHMITT TOLD PARTY DELEGATES THAT THERE WERE TWO
MAJOR POLITICAL PROBLEMS WITH WHICH THE SEW HAD TO DEAL
IN VIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND THE INTERNAL
SITUATION OF THE CITY:

A. COUNTERACTING THE INCREASINGLY OPEN ATTACKS BY
IMPERIALIST AGITATORS AGAINST INTERNATIONAL DETENTE;
PREVENTING THE RETURN TO THE COLD WAR FOR WHICH REACTIONARY
FORCES WERE STRIVING AND ASSISTING IN STABILIZING
WORLD PEACE; AND

B. HOW TO CONCENTRATE THE POWER OF THE WORKERS'
MOVEMENT IN WEST BERLIN AND DEFEND SOCIAL AND
DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE IN VIEW OF THE INCREASED
ESCALATION OF THE CAPITALIST CRISIS.

4. IN HIS SPEECH THE NEW SEW CHAIRMAN COMMENTED ON
SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC ISSUES, AMONG THEM
THE QA, THE ALL-PARTY PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION'S BERLIN
AID PROGRAM, DEMOCRACY IN WEST BERLIN AND THE UPCOMING
ELECTIONS TO THE BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN
MARCH 1979. SCHMITT DEMANDED THAT DIETRICH STOBBE AND
THE SPD LIMIT THEIR POLITICS TO THAT OF "COMMON SENSE,
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REALISM AND BALANCE OF FORCES." SCHMITT SAID THE SEW
FAVORS COMPLEMENTING POLITICAL DETENTE BY MILITARY
DETENTE AND ADVOCATES "STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE QA AND
ITS FUNDAMENTAL PROVISION, NAMELY THAT WEST BERLIN IS
NOT PART OF THE GDR AND CANNOT BE GOVERNED BY IT."
(COMMENT - THE OTHER HALF OF THE STANDARD QA PHRASE --
"FULL IMPLEMENTATION" -- WAS CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT.) THE
SEW CHAIRMAN ALSO STATED THE PARTY WAS AWARE OF THE
COMMUNICATIONS LINKS (VERBINDUNGEN) WHICH TIE WEST BERLIN
TO THE FRG, AND DID NOT DEMAND THAT THEY BE SEVERED. HE
INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CITY WAS ABOVE ALL IN NEED OF
GOOD CONNECTIONS "TO THE STABLE (KRISENFREIE) WORLD OF
SOCIALISM," AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE GDR.

5. SCHMITT VIOLENTLY CRITICIZED THE ALL-PARTY PRESI-
DENTIAL COMMISSION'S PROGRAM TO AID BERLIN, SAYING
IT WAS DESIGNED ONLY TO SERVE THE INTERESTS OF CAPITALISM
AND HELPED TO REDUCE THE VIABILITY OF THE CITY BY SPEEDING
CAPITALIST RATIONALIZATION, AND CONSEQUENTLY THE REPLACE-
MENT OF HUMAN WORK POWER BY NEW MACHINES AND TECHNOLOGIES.

6. FINALLY, SCHMITT APPEALED TO ALL BERLINERS TO JOIN THE

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SEW BECAUSE "TOGETHER WITH THE ORGANIZED WORKERS MOVEMENT AND ITS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, THE SEW, MUCH CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED AND CHANGED IN THE CITY." SCHMITT CALLED UPON THE PARTY TO EXERT ITSELF IN SPREADING THE SEW'S MESSAGE AND TO INCREASE ITS SHARE OF THE VOTE IN THE MARCH 1979 ELECTIONS. (COMMENT - THE SEW POLLED 25,000 OR 1.8 PERCENT OF THE VOTE IN 1975 AND 34,000 OR 2.3 PERCENT IN 1971.)

7. BIO DATA ON SCHMITT, AHRENS, AND KOPP WILL BE SENT TO BONN AND DEPARTMENT BY AIRGRAM.GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USBERL01742
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780303-1094
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780726/aaaaavnk.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 20d4676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USBERLIN 1182
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1902725
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BERLIN SEW ELECTS HORST SCHMITT NEW CHAIRMAN
TAGS: PINT, PINR, WB, (SCHMITT, HORST)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/20d4676d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014